

REMARKS

In the Office Action of February 4, 2008, the Examiner objected to claims 58 and 68 for minor informalities. By this Amendment, these claims have been amended to overcome the objections. The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 58-74 as being anticipated by Starr et al in view of Haruch and Tognazzo. Claims 8, 10 and 11 were rejected over these three references in further view of Muller et al and Fukuta. The remaining claims were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Reconsideration of the rejection, in view of the amendment to the claims, is respectfully requested.

The invention presents a method for ultrapurifying fumes or gases by eliminating all micropollutants. The invention does not use water to collect pollutants suspended in air but uses snowflakes to collect micropollutants in water drops. The polluted water drops freeze on the flakes which are subsequently removed. The water containing the pollutants and freezing on the snow flakes is clearly set forth in claim 1, as amended.

In contrast, the method of Starr uses water drops or snow flakes to remove particles suspended in the stream, not contained in water drops. The resultant stream is only partially purified since the resultant air contains water having micropollutants. Starr contemplates the use of snow only in that the lower temperature of the water makes it more absorbent of the pollutants.

The Examiner noted that Starr does not disclose the quick cooling of pure water and relies upon Haruch for disclosing the atomizing spray nozzle to obtain snow. There is no disclosure on how to modify Starr's process to obtain ultrapurifying.


Claim 1 now recites a flow of unpolluted water within a snow producer to form snow flakes and striking a gas having water containing micropollutants with the snowflakes to cause crystallization of the water drops on the snowflakes and then eliminating the snowflakes.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 12, 17 and 31 have been rewritten in independent form to take advantage of the indicated allowable subject matter.

The claims are allowable over the prior art and favorable action is eagerly and earnestly solicited. A three month extension of time accompanies this response along with the fee for the four additional independent claims in excess of 3. If any additional fees are due and owing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 08-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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